

1 We claim:

1 1. A method to read (N) sequential files written to an information storage
2 medium, and then skip the next (M) sequential files, wherein said information storage
3 medium is disposed in a data storage device, comprising the following steps in the
4 following order:

5 identifying said (M) files;

6 reading said (N) files.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of skipping said (M)
2 files after said reading step.

1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the following steps in the
2 following order:

3 reading (N-x) of said (N) files;

4 identifying said (M) files;

5 reading the remaining (x) files;

6 skipping said (M) files;

7 wherein (x) is greater than or equal to 1 and less than or equal to (N-1).

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein said data storage device is capable of
2 communicating with a host computer, further comprising, after reading said (N-x) files,
3 the steps of:

4 providing said (N-x) files to said host computer;

5 receiving said (N-x) files by said host computer after said providing step;

6 generating a first command complete signal by said host computer after said
7 receiving step.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein said data storage device further comprises
2 a memory, further comprising, after said generating step, the steps of:

3 issuing a LOCATE LOOK AHEAD command set by said host computer;

4 receiving said LOCATE LOOK AHEAD command set by said data storage
5 device;

6 writing said LOCATE LOOK AHEAD command set to said memory;

7 generating a second command complete signal by said data storage device after
8 said writing step.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of receiving a
2 LOCATE LOOK AHEAD (Y,M) command, wherein (Y) comprises the number of
3 filemarks in the (x) files.

1 7. The method of claim 3, wherein said information storage medium
2 comprises a magnetic tape, and wherein said data storage device comprises a tape drive
3 comprising a tape head, and wherein said last of said (N) files comprises a file end,
4 further comprising the steps of:

5 moving said magnetic tape in a first direction during said identifying step and said
6 reading steps;

7 stopping said magnetic tape when said tape head reaches said file end; and

8 moving said tape in a second direction while skipping said (M) files, wherein said
9 first direction is opposite said second direction.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein said information storage medium
2 comprises a magnetic tape, and wherein said data storage device comprises a tape drive
3 comprising a tape head, and wherein said last of said (N) files comprises a file end,
4 further comprising the steps of:
5 moving said magnetic tape in a first direction at a first speed during said
6 identifying step and said reading step;
7 moving said magnetic tape in said first direction at a second speed when said tape
8 head reaches said file end;
9 wherein said second speed is greater than said first speed.

1 9. An article of manufacture comprising a computer useable medium having
2 computer readable program code disposed therein to read (N) sequential files written to
3 an information storage medium, and then skip the next (M) sequential files, wherein said
4 information storage medium is disposed in said article of manufacture, the computer
5 readable program code comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect
6 in the following order:
7 identifying said (M) files;
8 reading said (N) files.

1 10. The article of manufacture of claim 9, said computer readable program
2 code further comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect skipping
3 said (M) files after reading said (N) files.

1 11. The article of manufacture of claim 10, the computer readable program
2 code further comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect in the
3 following order:

4 reading (N-x) of said (N) files;

5 identifying said (M) files;

6 reading the remaining (x) files;

7 skipping said (M) files;

8 wherein (x) is greater than or equal to 1 and less than or equal to (N-1).

1 12. The article of manufacture of claim 11, wherein said article of
2 manufacture is capable of communicating with a host computer, the computer readable
3 program code further comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect
4 after reading said (N-x) files:

5 providing said (N-x) files to said host computer;

6 receiving a first command complete signal from said host computer.

1 13. The article of manufacture of claim 12, wherein said article of
2 manufacture further comprises a memory, the computer readable program code further
3 comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect:

4 receiving a LOCATE LOOK AHEAD command set from said host computer;

5 writing said LOCATE LOOK AHEAD command set to said memory;

6 generating a second command complete signal after writing said LOCATE LOOK
7 AHEAD command set to said memory.

1 14. The article of manufacture of claim 13, the computer readable program
2 code further comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect receiving a
3 LOCATE LOOK AHEAD (Y,M) command, wherein (Y) comprises the number of
4 filemarks in the (x) files.

1 15. The article of manufacture of claim 11, wherein said information storage
2 medium comprises a magnetic tape, and wherein said article of manufacture comprises a
3 tape drive comprising a tape head, and wherein said last of said (N) files comprises a file
4 end, the computer readable program code further comprising a series of computer
5 readable program steps to effect:
6 moving said magnetic tape in a first direction while identifying said (M) files and
7 reading said (N) files;
8 stopping said magnetic tape when said tape head reaches said file end; and
9 moving said tape in a second direction while skipping said (M) files, wherein said
10 first direction is opposite said second direction.

1 16. The article of manufacture of claim 9, wherein said information storage
2 medium comprises a magnetic tape, and wherein said article of manufacture comprises a
3 tape drive comprising a tape head, and wherein said last of said (N) files comprises a file
4 end, the computer readable program code further comprising a series of computer
5 readable program steps to effect:
6 moving said magnetic tape in a first direction at a first speed during while
7 identifying said (M) files and reading said (N) files;

8 moving said magnetic tape in said first direction at a second speed when said tape
9 head reaches said file end;
10 wherein said second speed is greater than said first speed.

1 17. A computer program product usable with a programmable computer
2 processor having computer readable program code embodied therein to read (N)
3 sequential files written to an information storage medium, and then skip the next (M)
4 sequential files, wherein said information storage medium is disposed in a data storage
5 device, comprising:

6 computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer
7 processor to identify said (M) files;
8 computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer
9 processor to read said (N) files after identifying said (M) files.

1 18. The computer program product of claim 17, further comprising computer
2 readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to skip said
3 (M) files after reading said (N) files.

1 19. The computer program product of claim 18, the computer readable
2 program code further comprising:

3 computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer
4 processor to read the first (N-x) of said (N) files;

5 computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer
6 processor to identify said (M) files after reading said (N-x) files;

7 computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer
8 processor to read the remaining (x) files after identifying said (M) files;

9 computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer
10 processor to skip said (M) files after reading said remaining (x) files;

11 wherein (x) is greater than or equal to 1 and less than or equal to (N-1).

1 20. The computer program product of claim 19, wherein said data storage
2 device is capable of communicating with a host computer, further comprising:

3 computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer
4 processor to provide said (N-x) files to said host computer after reading said first (N-x)
5 files and before identifying said (M) files;

6 computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer
7 processor to receive a first command complete signal from said host computer before
8 identifying said (M) files.

1 21. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein said data storage
2 device further comprises a memory, further comprising:

3 computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer
4 processor to receive a LOCATE LOOK AHEAD command from said host computer;

5 computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer
6 processor to write said LOCATE LOOK AHEAD command set to said memory;

7 computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer
8 processor to receive a second command complete signal after writing said LOCATE
9 LOOK AHEAD command set to said memory and prior to reading said (x) files.

1 22. The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising computer
2 readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to receive a
3 LOCATE LOOK AHEAD (Y,M) command, wherein (Y) comprises the number of
4 filemarks in the (x) files.

1 23. The computer program product of claim 19, wherein said information
2 storage medium comprises a magnetic tape, and wherein said data storage device
3 comprises a tape drive comprising a tape head, and wherein said last of said (N) files
4 comprises a file end, further comprising:
5 computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer
6 processor to move said magnetic tape in a first direction during while reading said (N-x)
7 files, identifying said (M) files, and reading said remaining (x) files;
8 computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer
9 processor to stop said magnetic tape when said tape head reaches said file end; and
10 computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer
11 processor to moving said tape in a second direction while skipping said (M) files;
12 wherein said second direction is opposite said first direction.

1 24. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein said information
2 storage medium comprises a magnetic tape, and wherein said data storage device
3 comprises a tape drive comprising a tape head, and wherein said last of said (N) files
4 comprises a file end, further comprising:

5 computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer
6 processor to move said magnetic tape in a first direction at a first speed while identifying
7 said (M) files, and reading said (N) files;
8 computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer
9 processor to move said magnetic tape in said first direction at a second speed when said
10 tape head reaches said file end;
11 wherein said second speed is greater than said first speed.